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NASHVILLE – Decatur County students looking for employment will be better prepared to compete in today's job market, thanks to the nationally recognized School-To-Work Transition program called Making It Happen. Students at Riverside High School are participating in the program.

“The Making It Happen program was developed in Tennessee to prepare graduating seniors with employability skills as they enter the real world of work,” explained Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Michael E. Magill. “Students pay special attention to local employers who have come into the classroom to discuss what they expect on the job.”

“Local employers perform mock job interviews, provide business tours, and discuss the significance of good work habits. The program creates a WIN/WIN situation for everyone involved.”

Today's graduation honored both the students and local employers who participated in Making It Happen. In Decatur County, approximately 120 students participated in the program. Approximately 15,000 students have completed the program since its inception in 1990.

The program has been sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Decatur County Job Service Employer Committee, the Decatur County Board of Education, and the Decatur County Education Edge Partnership. Individual sponsors for the program included: Ayers Foundation, Community South Bank, First Bank, Decatur County Bank, and Farmers State Bank.

According to Mark Chandler, employer relations representative, the program has been very successful, creating strong local partnerships between employers, students, and the local school system. Hundreds of employers have given their time and energy to make the program work.

“Employers strongly support the programs because they know it’s improving the quality of the work force,” Chandler reported. “They work with students in the classroom to give them a competitive edge when entering the labor force.”

For more information on hiring a Making It Happen graduate; contact your local Labor and Workforce Development office.

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